

REMARKS

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for the interview of November 13, 2002. As requested by the Examiner, the applicant submits this Preliminary Amendment to adopt the Examiner's suggested modifications.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR
JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}



Scott Y. Shigeta
Registration No. 50,398
Direct Dial No. 206.695.1722

SYS:tm

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE NOVEMBER 13, 2002

In the Claims:

Claims 10, 15, 17, 19-28, and 30 have been amended as follows:

10. The method of Claim [8] 9, wherein said price data set further includes an adjusted price, an adjusted quantity.

15. The method of Claim [13] 14, wherein comparing said adjusted market price total by said price total, includes determining a ratio by dividing said price total by said adjusted market price total, thereby creating the normalized price data value.

17. The method of Claim [15] 16, wherein comparing said summed market price total by said total type price, includes determining a ratio by dividing said total type price by said summed market price total, thereby creating the normalized price data value.

19. The method of Claim [17] 18, further comprising:
receiving a buy notice from said buyer client computer; and
transmitting a purchase order to one of said seller computers of said plurality of seller client computers.

20. The method of Claim [17] 18, further comprising:
receiving a plurality of product specification data sets from said plurality of buyer client computers; and
combining said plurality of product specification data sets, thereby creating one request for quote.

21. The method of Claim [17] 18, wherein said product specification data set includes information related to a buyer, said request for quote grade, quantity, tally, a method of shipment, and a ship date.

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS^{LLC}
1420 Fifth Avenue
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Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

22. The method of Claim [17] 18, wherein the product specification data set comprises a plurality of quantity values for a number of like commodity items having different size parameters, a description of at least one commodity item, and a description of a delivery method.

23. The method of Claim [17] 18, wherein said price data set includes information to identify a seller, a quote price, shipment, and payment terms.

24. The method of Claim [22] 23, wherein said price data set further includes an adjusted price, and an adjusted quantity.

25. The method of Claim [17] 18, further comprising, receiving an additional price data set from the seller client computer, wherein the additional price data is a result from a renegotiated price.

26. The method of Claim [17] 18, further comprising, storing the normalized price data set in a database communicatively connected to the server.

27. The method of Claim [17] 18, wherein the normalizing step comprises, applying a metric transform to said price data set to create a normalized price data value.

28. The method of Claim [17] 18, wherein product specification data set comprises a plurality of quantity values for a number of similar commodity items having different size parameters, wherein the normalizing step comprises:

calculating a size total value based a summation of said commodity size parameters;

retrieving a price total from one of said price data sets;

retrieving a metric price data set, wherein said metric price data set comprises a comparable price per unit of one of said commodity items;

multiplying said price per unit by said calculated size total value, thereby creating an adjusted market price total; and

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PC}
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

comparing said adjusted market price total by said price total, thereby creating a normalized price data set.

30. The method of Claim [17] 18, wherein product specification data set comprises a plurality of quantity values for a number of commodity items having different size parameters and type parameters, wherein the normalizing step comprises:

for each type of commodity item, calculating a size total value based a summation of said commodity size parameters;

for each type of commodity item, retrieving a price total from one of said price data sets;

summing said price total from each type of commodity item, thereby creating a total type price;

for each type of commodity item, retrieving a metric price data set, wherein said market price data set comprises a comparable price per unit of one of said commodity items;

for each type of commodity item, multiplying said price per unit by said size total value, thereby creating an market price total for each type of commodity item;

calculating a summed market price total from the summation of said market price total of each type of commodity item; and

comparing said summed market price total by said total type price, thereby creating the normalized price data value.

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESSSM
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100